



THE BILGEWATER

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Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

March 2007

District 6

Thank You Gerry!



Gerry Fry, JN , has served his squadron well for the past two years. It has been enjoyable and rewarding to have served with him as our squadron grew and developed. We are sad to see him go but he is not moving very far. Gerry becomes our new Squadron Education Officer.

We can't mention the SEO without also thanking Lt/C Vicky Fry, JN for serving so well in this office. Thanks Vicky. (You got lucky, we couldn't come up with a photo of you we could use.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE - P 2 * NOTICE TO MEMBERS- P 3**

*****CHANGE OF WATCH - P 4 *** FROM THE SEO - P 5 *****

CHECKING THE BILGE - P 6 ***

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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usps.org/localusps/utica

e-mail the Commander at:

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN '06
SPRING CONFERENCE 13-15 APRIL
SQUADRON MEETING 4 APRIL
LAUNCH PARTY AND AUCTION 18 MAY
3 JUNE LOCK 20 BOAT SMART
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK EVENTS

Recently a friend observed my behavior and suggested that being a club president or commander is like buying a boat. The two happiest days are the day you buy it and the day you sell it. This does not adequately express my feelings as I attempt to write my last message to you as your commander. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be commander for the last two years. So I finish this volunteer endeavor with mixed feelings.

While a lot of effort must be expended as a leader of any group, other members step in to help. This is so true of the members of Utica Sail and Power Squadron. It is you members who make our courses and activities a success. I thank you. Our volunteer teachers bring the framework for learning together for you students. All of our volunteer teachers have done a great job and they are to be congratulated and thanked with gusto. Our appointed committee chairs bring additional depth to our efforts to educate our members and serve the public for boating safety. We thank them also. And last we have the elected members of your bridge who make everything come together for social events, member education, and public education. My bridge members have been wonderful and deserve great praise, thanks, and support as they continue our club activities.


Vicky and I have gotten to know many of our members and count them as good friends. This experience has been most rewarding for us. We have taken great pleasure in learning from those who have gone before us and in helping our newer members to gain the same advantages for boating pleasure. I will not take up space here by naming individuals who deserve our gratitude because so many are deserving.

My hope is that we can do unto others

see Commander page 3

Commander from page 2

as they have done unto us in our future with the Utica Sail and Power Squadron. We hope that we can have the experience of making friends with more of our members and helping them to enjoy what we have enjoyed. We appreciate our past participation and look forward to the future. We are confident that our new leader, Commander George Peckingham, AP will work with his bridge officers and fellow members to make our collective efforts in the Utica Sail and Power Squadron a most enjoyable and rewarding experience for all.



**CAUGHT ON
THE NET**

[http://
www.howmanyofme.com/](http://www.howmanyofme.com/)

Have you ever wondered how many of you there are? Or to be more precise, how many other people have your name.

Go to the link above, enter your name and find how alone you may be.

The information is based on 1990 census data, but you will read about that on line.

NOTICE TO ALL

MEMBERS!

We are attempting to streamline communication with you and also improve our member roster. To these ends we request that you give us your e-mail address. Those of you who regularly receive e-mail notices from me, know that I have your address. I try to keep e-mail messages to a minimum so you don't put me on your spam blacklist. Another enjoyable part of our older membership roster was the list of member boats with names and size and type of boat. It is a nice resource for those of us who want to identify fellow members with similar interests. Please send me this information at gerryfry1@verizon.net.

Thanks. Gerry

AND

At the last squadron meeting the topic of the increasing cost of mail came up. It was suggested that there may be some members that would be happy having the Bilgewater delivered to their home via e-mail rather than snail mail as it is now.

There was a rather long discussion of this topic as you might suspect. One issue, among many, is the quality of communication from an e-mailed newsletter vs. a mailed hard copy. What do you think?

Before you answer you may want to go to usps.org/localusps/utica and see the Bilgewater in living color on line.

In any event, drop a note to our new Commander at duke_peck@msn.com and let him know what you think.

CHANGE OF WATCH 2007



We are pleased to welcome Lt/C George Peckingham, AP as our new Commander for 2007 - 2008.

George has served with distinction for the past two years as our Executive Officer, as well as chairing the Bylaws Committee and working as our Supply Officer. George has taken over as the squadron computer person in keeping membership records and printing many publications.

We thank George for agreeing to serve as our Commander for the following year,



Lt/C Linda LaDuc, P will serve as our new Executive Officer. She has been an outstanding Secretary and served the last two years as our Administrative Officer

Lt/C Colleen A. Welch, P has served as our Secretary for the past year as well as performing many tasks for the squadron. She will be our new Administrative Officer.



George Silverman, a new but very active member, has agreed to take on the task as Squadron Secretary. We welcome Lt/C Silverman to our ranks and wish him well.



Lt/C Thomas A. Sears, AP has will continue to serve as our Treasurer. Tom has served in this capacity for many years to the point he has become our nearly indispensable bridge officer. We sincerely thank him for all he does.

The other elected officers, serving as our elected members to the Executive Committee will be P/C Dean Woodard, P , P/C David Schulz, AP and P/C Gerry Fry, JN.

From The SEO

By Lt./C Vicky Fry, JN



Hello fellow lifelong learners. We thank our intrepid duo P/C Dean Woodard, P and Richard Smith, P for again teaching the Boat Smart course. They have 8 students who will finish the course on 29 March. Several members have volunteered to help with the final exam and completion party.

Two changes being made at the national level affect the Boat Smart course. One, since national USPS has sold the last of their Boat Smart books, the Squadron Boating course will be our future public boating safety course. This new course can be taught for 8 hours to qualify students for the boating safety certificate, and then continued 4 more hours to introduce the use of nautical charts and plotting. This is intended to attract students who want more than the safety certificate. A second change was approved at the national meeting that places a three year moratorium on the membership requirement to have taken a boating safety course before joining USPS. This is an attempt to attract more experienced boaters to membership. You may know some experienced boaters who could be interested in membership and the opportunity to take member courses and electives. Please help them to join us.

As I have mentioned in earlier reports, national USPS is preparing several seminars that we will be offered to our members and to the public. These seminars, when combined with member courses and elective courses, and an on-the-water competency demonstration, will be the basic requirements for members to earn Boating Competency Certificates at various levels. This is the thrust of the new USPS University effort that is under development. The main goal is to give members and new members the opportunity to earn credentials that will expedite their chartering of boats in domestic and foreign waters, and show competency for other purposes such as purchase of marine insurance.

Competency certificates will advance from "Inland Navigator" to "Coastal Navigator" to "Advanced Coastal Navigator" to "Offshore Navigator". A structure is in place for the first level of Inland Navigator while the other three are still being developed. To earn the Inland Navigator Certificate, a member must have completed a basic boating safety course such as Boat Smart and member courses in Seamanship, Engine Maintenance, and Marine Electrical Systems. Also, completion of six seminars are required. They include "How to use a Chart", "Using GPS", "Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radios", and "Onboard Weather Forecasting" plus two additional seminars of the member's choice. Skill certification on the water can be completed by taking the US Sailing Company course "Safe Powerboat Handling" or equivalent experience. Many questions about these certificate requirements still need answers from national.

I will leave the job of explaining and expediting these seminars and certificate programs to Gerry who will be your new Squadron Education Officer. Please accept my sincere thanks to all of you who have taken courses and to your instructors. Keep learning and keep smiling as you enjoy safe and fun boating.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard
WHO DOES WHAT

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, " You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it. And besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that. Show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened it to the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says....."HEBREWS"

God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece.

□ □ □

We talk with readers and the only thing they ever seem to have read are the jokes. That said we have a few more.

□ □ □

IDIOT SIGHTING:

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "It's open!"

His reply, "I know - I already got that side."

This was at the Ford dealership in Canton, Mississippi!

SPRING CONFERENCE MEAL RESERVATIONS

P/D/C Mike Kelly, AP
District 6 Conference Planning

The Spring Conference Meal Reservation Form was printed in the Deep 6. The process remains the same as in the past. Send the completed form, along with your payment, to the Spring Conference registration chairperson (P/C Nancy Jones, P, Iroquois Sail and Power Squadron). Please notice the late registration charge for lunch and dinner. The hotel sets the cutoff deadline for meals. While we are doing much better meeting the registration deadline, it remains difficult to pass firm numbers to the hotel if registrations are late. Registration cutoff for meals is 26 March, at which time the hotel chef will order the banquet food against our firm numbers. A small change in numbers is manageable, but we want to avoid late registration numbers. Please make every effort to meet the 26 March deadline date.

If you plan to attend this event, please contact Cdr Gerry Fry, JN for help, room reservations or advice.

□ □ □

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs,

"Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!"

The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?"

"Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out."



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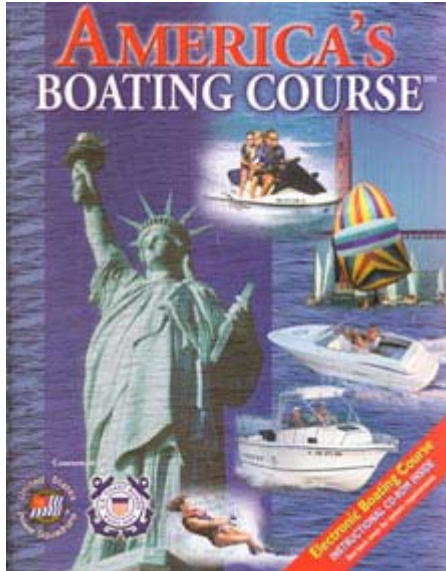
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The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

The BILGEWATER
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